秘曲"世阿弥"
柳生十兵衛死す
壱
原作:山田風太郎
漫画:石川賢
©

YAGYUU JUUBEI DIES (I)
THE SECRET SONG OF ZEAMI

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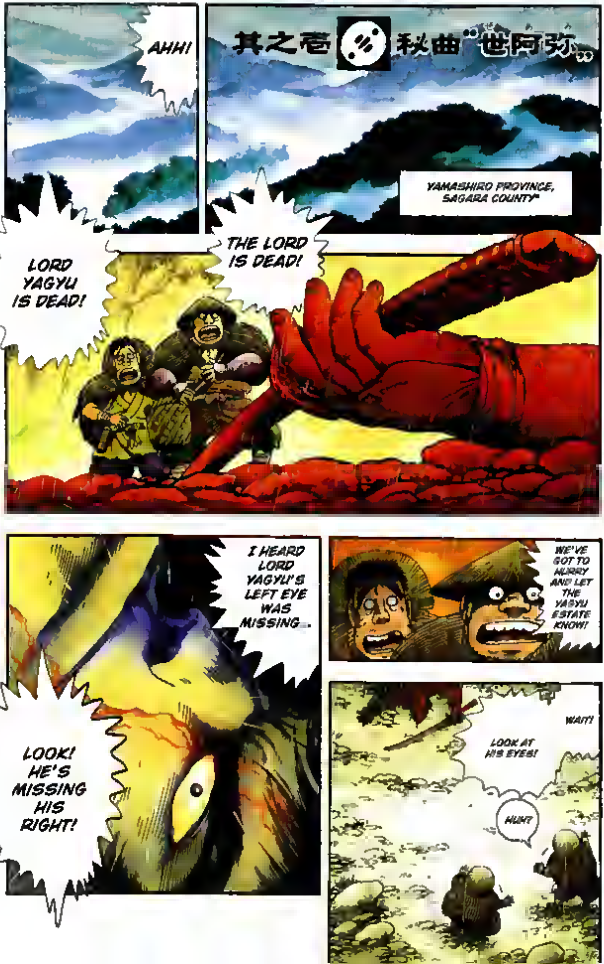
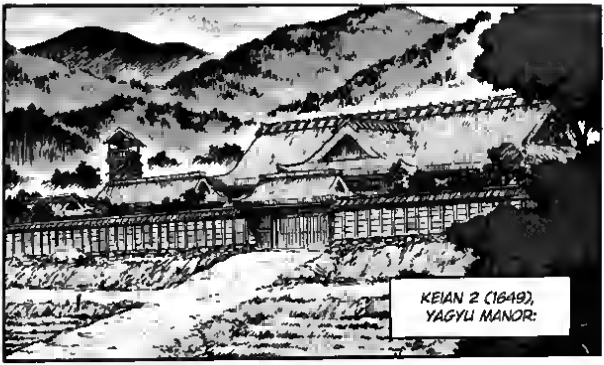
PART THE FIRST THE SECRET SONG OF ZEAMI


AHH!
其之壱 秘曲"世阿弥"
YAMASHIRO PROVINCE, SAGARA COUNTY*
* NOW KYOTO PRE-FECTURE
LORD YAGYU IS DEAD!
THE LORD IS DEAD!
I HEARD LORD YAGYU'S LEFT EYE WAS MISSING...
LOOK! HE'S MISSING HIS RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND LET THE YAGYU ESTATE KNOW!
WAIT!
LOOK AT HIS EYES!
HUH?

PART THE FIRST
THE SECRET SONG OF ZEAMI

YAGYU JUBEI THE MIGHTIEST SWORDSMAN OF THE AGE WAS DEAD
WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE STORY THAT LEAD TO THIS CIRCUMSTANCE
HEY, WAIT!
LORD YAGYU SHITS IN THE WOODS OVER THERE ALL THE TIME!
SABUROMA-RU!! YOU'RE A WARRIOR'S SON AT LEAST WEAR A LOINCLOTH!!
DON'T WANNA !!!
WO-AH!
AH!
YOU'LL GET NOWHERE FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE!

AH!
WAAAH!
WE WISH TO SEE LORD YAGYU JUBEI.


KEIAN 2 (1649),
YAGYU MANOR:

I AM CALLED YUI SHOSETSU AND THESE ARE MY DISCIPLES
WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A DOJO OF MILITARY SCIENCE AT USHIGOME IN EDO
AND, HAVING HEARD FOR SOME TIME OF THE RENOWN OF LORD YAGYU JUBEI MITSUYOSHI, WE WISH TO REQUEST AN AUDIENCE
WE HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH THIS LAND ON OUR WAY TO KI PROVINCE,

NOW...?
FISHING, AND THEN PROBABLY TO GO VIEW NOH...
HIS LORDSHIP IS OUT JUST NOW
WHERE WAS HE GONE?

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ガバ

GWAH!
AHH!
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あ
あ
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NOTHING GETS PAST YOU, DOES IT, LORD YAGYU? I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS
WHEW
CHIKUAMI... YOU LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN!
YOUR WARRIOR SPIRIT CLEAVED MY ART CLEAN IN TWO!
YOU BEAT ME!
HAHA!
BEEN ABLE TO GET A BLOW IN DURING YOUR NOH.
CHIKUAMI, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE
I SENSED SOMETHING UNDER IT
YOU'RE NOT ONE TO LET A LITTLE LEAF THROW YOU OFF.
THERE WAS A LEAF UNDERFOOT
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.

HAHA! MERELY A COINCIDENCE.
MY ART IS HARDLY SO ADVANCED.
SO THAT'S HOW KEEN YOU'VE GOT TO BE BEFORE YOU CAN BE CALLED FIRST-RATE
I SEE
AAA.
AMONG MY ANCESTORS WAS A MAN CALLED ZEAMI
IT IS SAID THAT HE ESTABLISHED THE ART OF NOH.
WHY DID ZEAMI COME HERE?
I HEAR ZEAMI VISITED THIS LAND
AND THAT HE DIED ON HIS WAY TO IGA

NOH IS AN ART OF TRANSFORMATION.
THE EXTREME LIMIT OF THAT TRANSFORMATION IS TO BECOME THE OTHER PERSON COMPLETELY.
AN ART CALLED THE ULTIMATE VISION NOH
VISION NOH?
YOU'VE COME'RE HERE TO FIND THAT OUT.
SEAMI ESTABLISHED A KIND OF NOH HERE
IT IS AN ARTISTRY THAT TRANSPORTS THOSE WHO VIEW IT TO THE WORLD IN WHICH THE DEAD LIVED
VISION NOH IS TO DANCE THE WORLD OF THE DEAD ONCE MORE
I WANT TO SEE IT!
CHIKUAMI, CAN YOU DANCE THE SO-CALLED ULTIMATE VISION NOH!?
IT WILL CALL BOTH I, WHO DANCE NOH, AND YOU, WHO WATCH IT, INTO THE WORLD OF THE PAST.
VISION NOH IS APTLY NAMED
BUT I HAVE AT LEAST BEEN DILIGENT IN MY TRAINING.
I CANNOT HOPE TO REACH ZEAMI'S LEVEL.

WHAT A PLACE FOR A PLAY.
HUFF HUFF
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
LORD JUBEI!
VERY WELL.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN.

LORD YAGYU JUBEI! WE MEET AT LAST!

I'M HONORED
I'VE HEARD THE NAME YUI SHOSETSU
THESE TWO ARE MY DISCIPLES, KANAI HANBEI AND MARUBASHI CHUYA.
YUI KOCHODO SHOSETSU. I OPERATE A DOJO AT USHIGOME IN EDO
EH!?
BUT WHAT I'VE HEARD ISN'T VERY GOOD
I HAVE FIVE THOUSAND DISCIPLES AT MY DOJO IN EDO!
LORD JUBEI, I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT
URK!
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW
IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME, THEN STATE IT QUICKLY
AND HIDDEN YOURSELF IN THIS LONELY MOUNTAIN RETREAT... IF YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF RESUMING YOUR POST AS INSTRUCTOR TO THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY
FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU, THE HEAD OF THE YAGYU CLAN, HAVE CEDED THE PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE OF INSTRUCTOR TO THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY TO YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER,

I WOULD ASK YOU TO INSTRUCT AT MY DOJO!
MORONS.
WAIT HANBEI
GRR...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
M- MORONS !?

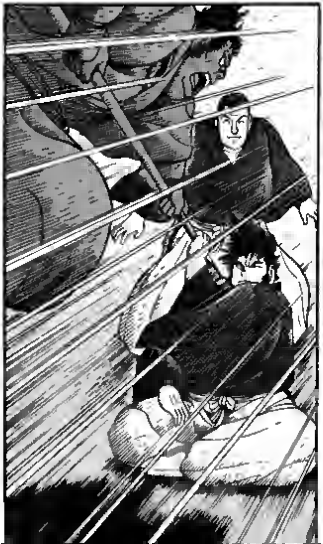
ONE OF THE THREE BRANCH FAMILIES OF THE HOUSE OF TOKUGAWA
WE HAVE TIES TO THE KISHU FAMILY
IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT A MAN OF YOUR PEDIGREE SHOULD BE DISSATISFIED WITH THE POST OF INSTRUCTOR IN A CITY DOJO
EXCUSE US, LORD JUBEI
SURELY YOU CAN'T BE DISSATISFIED WITH THAT!!
WE WILL NOMINATE YOU FOR THE POST OF SWORD INSTRUCTOR TO LORD YORINOBU, CHIEF COUNCILOR OF STATE FOR OWARI AND KISHU!
MORONS!

I CALL YOU MORONS BECAUSE YOU ARE!
YOU CALLED US MORONS AGAIN!
AH, AH..!
YES!
CHIKUAMI, PAY THEM NO MIND!
SHOW ME YOUR VISION NOW!
I CAN'T STAND BEING TIED DOWN!
I'M NOT THE TEENSIEST BIT INTERESTED IN BEING ANYONE'S INSTRUCTOR!
SHICHIRO, YOU WATCH CLOSELY AS WELL!
FATHER?
AND INVITE YOU TO THE GHOST WORLD OF THE PAST!!
I WILL NOW BECOME ZEAMI!

I AM CALLED MARUBASHI CHUYA, KNOWN IN EDO FOR MY HOZOIN SPEAR STYLE!
HAVING COME ALL THE WAY TO YAGYU, FAMED ACROSS THE LAND FOR ITS SWORDSMANSHIP... I WISH TO REQUEST A DUEL!!
LORD YAGYU JUBEI!
STAY!
MY LORD?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, CHIKUAMI, THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO TRANSFORM INTO TOO.
BUT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE; IT WAS HIS RIGHT EYE THAT WAS BUSTED!!
AND HE WAS ALSO MISSING AN EYE!
HIS NAME WAS ALSO YAGYU JUBEI!
ONE OF MY ANCESTORS!

I WANT TO MEET THAT MAN, THE YAGYU JUBEI MITSUYOSHI OF THE MUROMACHI PERIOD!!
THE MAN SAID TO BE A FEARSOME PRACTITIONER OF THE KAGE SCHOOL, AND THE REASON THE YAGYU ARE SWORDSMEN TO THIS DAY!!
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT!? STAND AND FACE ME!
AH, YES!
THE MUROMACHI PERIOD YOU SAY? THAT PLACES HIM IN THE SAME ERA AS MY ANCESTOR, ZEAMI.

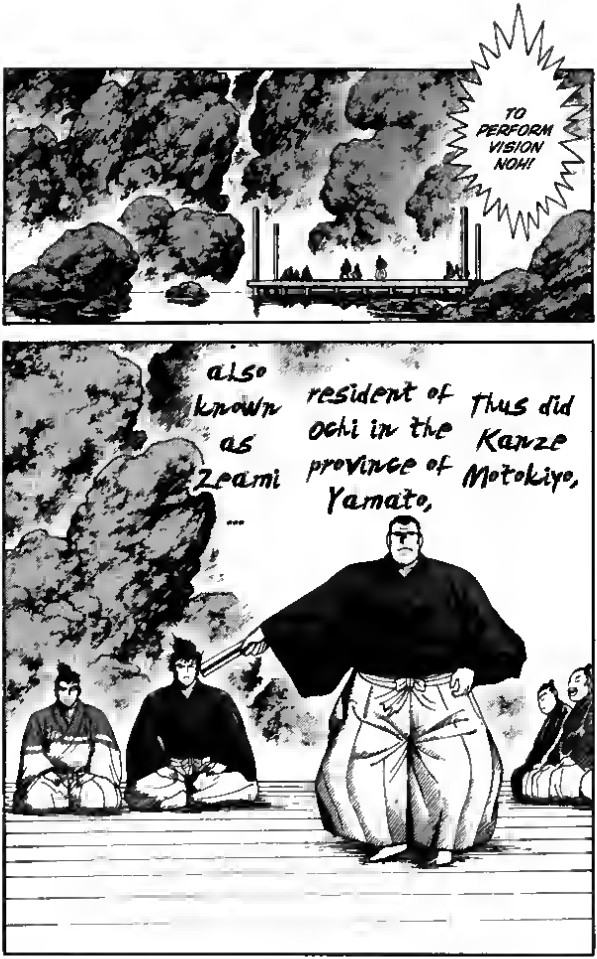
CHUYA, YOU CAN'T MEAN TO FACE HIM SERIOUSLY!
IS THERE NO END TO YOUR MOCKERY!?
I'M FINE LIKE THIS!
I'LL FACE YOU SITTING HERE!
IF IT CAUSES TROUBLE LATER, I'LL JUST CUT OPEN MY BELLY!!
MY DIGNITY COULDN'T STAND TO BACK DOWN AFTER ALL HE'S SAID!
OF ALL THE...
WAH!?
TOWAAAAH!



NGH!?

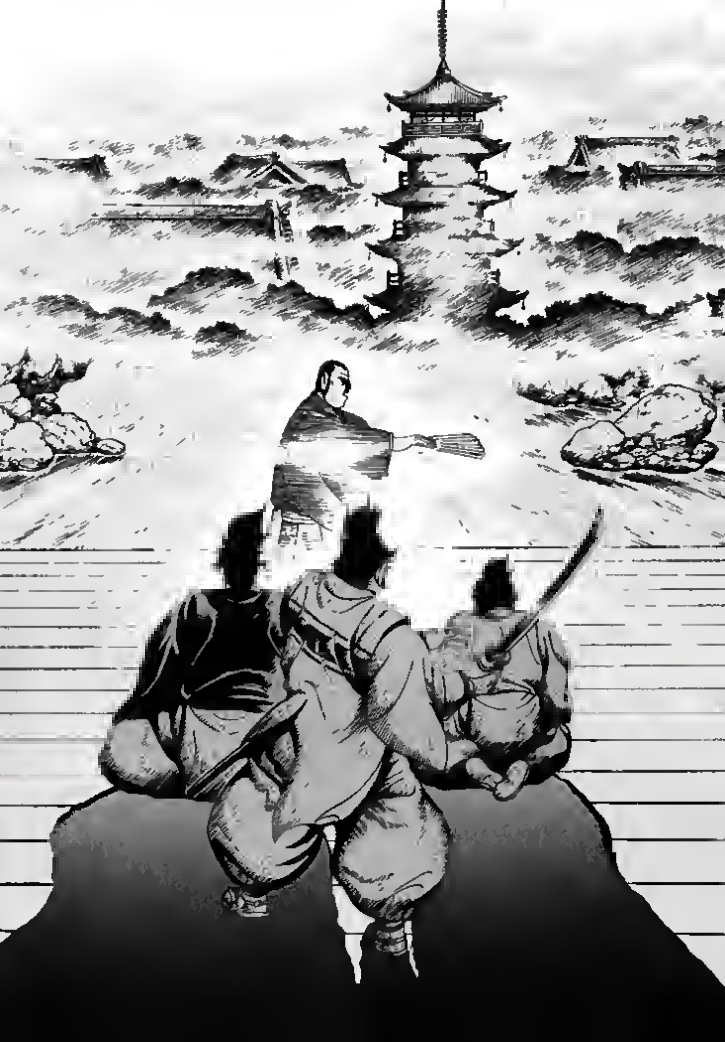
WOOAH!
AH!
MARU-BASHI!
IT LOOKED LIKE THERE WERE TWO JUBEIS!
WHAT WAS...
IMPO-SSIBLE !!!
PWAH!
RIKEN NO KEN!

YOU SEE ANOTHER ME AT A DISTANCE
IT MEANS "THE SWORD APART FROM THE SWORD."
WHAT IS
A SECRET OF THE YAGYU SHINKAGE SCHOOL.
RIKEN NO KEN!?
I SEE NOW! ZEAMI MUST HAVE LEARNED IT IN THIS LAND!
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF NOH, IT REFERS TO THE SAYING "EYES AHEAD MIND BEHIND"!
ONLY THE "KEN" MEANS "LOOK," NOT "SWORD"!!
THAT NAME APPEARS IN THE SECRETS OF MY ANCESTOR ZEAMI AS WELL
TO VIEW YOURSELF FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ANOTHER!
IF YOU DO THAT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO PERFORM YUGEN, IN WHICH THE FIVE SENSES ARE IN BALANCE!!
AS YOU LOOK AHEAD WITH YOUR EYES, YOU NEED ANOTHER EYE TO SEE BEHIND YOU!!


TO PERFORM VISION NOH!
Thus did Kanze Motokiyo,
resident of Ochi in the province of Yamato,
also known as Zeami ...

Only now return to his native province of Iga.
Here on the banks of the River Izu...
LOOKS LIKE CHIKUAMI'S REALIZED SOMETHING.
HM
LORD JUBEI, FATHER'S NOT HIS USUAL SELF

YES
HANBEI HIS MIND IS OCCUPIED WITH NOH
HE MADE FOOLS OF US.
IF WORD WERE TO GET OUT IT WOULD SULLY OUR DOJO'S REPUTATION!
WE MUST NOT LET HIM LIVE!



WHAT THE!?